

COMMEMORATING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the dark day 34 years ago this week in which Turkey illegally invaded the island of Cyprus. I rise in honor of the thousands of Cypriots who lost their lives or whose fate remains unknown, and in honor of the hundreds of thousands who were exiled from their homes. I would like to share my sympathy for their losses as well as my hope for a brighter, peaceful future for the island. The 34 unjust years of occupation must come to an end.

July 20, 1974 marks the beginning of a tragic era in Cypriot history. The Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern region of Cyprus has proved an affront to human rights and the rule of law. Hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots have suffered serious abuses of fundamental rights and freedoms. Their property has been illegally seized, their land has been settled, and many of their religious and cultural treasures have been damaged, destroyed, or illegally transferred abroad.

Turkey's military hold over northern Cyprus has persisted over three decades despite condemnation by the international community and nearly 100 U.N. resolutions requesting the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the island, the return of Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes and properties and above all, respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. Indeed, I authored a resolution which passed the House in 1995 calling for the demilitarization of Cyprus. While Turkey is a friend and ally of the United States, the time has come for Ankara to relinquish its grasp on Cyprus. Enough is enough.

Recent events have raised hopes for both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Cyprus' accession to the European Union in 2004 was pivotal in the processes of integration and mutual development. The Turkish Cypriot population of over 90,000 benefit daily from rapidly increasing per capita income and the Government of Cyprus' provision of free education and medical and social services. In sum, the Government of Cyprus has provided nearly one billion dollars in tangible benefits to the Turkish Cypriot community. Along with hundreds of thousands of crossings between the Turkish occupied zone and the rest of the Republic of Cyprus, this progress has contributed to an environment of increasing trust and cooperation in which a peacefully negotiated solution may be pursued.

Since his election in February 2008, President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias has made resolution of the Cyprus problem his top priority and principal concern. He has reached out to Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Mehmet Talat and called on him to cooperate face to face in order to implement a solution that honors relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions, the High Level Agreements of 1977, 1979 and July 8, 2006 and the values and fundamental principles on which the European Union is founded.

In March, President Christofias and Mr. Talat agreed to establish a number of Working

Groups and Technical Committees as stipulated in the July 8 Agreement. The House of Representatives expressed its full support in H. Res. 405, which I cosponsored, for these actions as the ground on which to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to Cyprus' reunification within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

After several meetings earlier this year between the two parties and in the spirit of the opening in April of a symbolic crossing through the U.N.-controlled buffer zone in Nicosia, the world's last divided capital, I am proud to report that tomorrow, President Christofias and Mr. Talat will meet again to undertake the final review of the Working Groups and Technical Committees.

I ask each of my colleagues in the House to join me in support of this positive effort to realize full-fledged negotiations. We must urge Turkey to respect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all citizens of Cyprus while exhibiting the political will that would enable a solution which will bring peace, prosperity and a better future for all the citizens of a united Cyprus.

ANNIVERSARY OF CAPITOL
POLICE DEATHS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, every morning when I go in to work, I pass by a plaque honoring Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut on the spot where they were killed, 10 years ago today. It's a quiet hallway today: Down the hall you can hear the sounds of visitors to the Capitol, and a few feet away, the work of the Majority Leader's Office goes on every day.

What a shock to think that that hallway could be filled with gunshots and blood—to know that our Capitol, the most sacred space in our democracy, could be filled with violence. But what a saving grace to know that, every day, we are surrounded by brave men and women who will stand in the way of violence, even at the cost of their own lives. Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut died doing just about the most worthwhile thing one human being can do for another: shielding the vulnerable—and yes, that includes every single one of us in this Chamber.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut deserve every tribute they've been given: lying in honor under the Capitol dome; yesterday's words dedicated to their memory; today's moment of silence. But we know that what they did, every member of the Capitol Police—and every law enforcement officer—stands ready to do. We honor Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut not because they were unique in their sacrifice, but because their willingness to sacrifice was so typical—typical of all the best in those who wear the badge.

Edmund Burke wrote that "Good order is the foundation of all things." It is certainly the foundation of everything that happens in this building. Let us thank those men and women who risk their lives to give us order, safety, freedom from fear. And let us keep their families in our thoughts, today and every day—especially their wives, Evelyn Gibson and Wendy Wenling Chestnut.

Without such brave officers, the work of this building—and the work of our democracy—wouldn't last a day.

HONORING RYAN SLANCZKA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Slanczka of Liberty, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Slanczka for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DEBRA BROWN
STEINBERG

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize the tireless efforts of Debra Brown Steinberg on behalf of the families of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks against our country.

For the past 7 years, Ms. Steinberg has worked passionately as an advocate for these families and to ensure they are treated equally, regardless of their respective citizenship or immigration status. She has played a significant role in drafting and implementing various bills to benefit 9/11 families including New York State's September 11th Victims and Families Relief Act, the September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act and the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. In addition, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Steinberg and the Department of Homeland Security to allow eligible spouses and children of 9/11 victims to receive humanitarian parole and remain in the United States.

Of course, all of her efforts have been praiseworthy and her persistence in seeing that these families are taken care of is truly remarkable. On behalf of the 9/11 families, many of which are constituents of mine, I salute Debra Steinberg for her devotion and positive contributions to their lives.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON GRANT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker I rise today to celebrate the life of an icon in the

Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, my friend Milton Grant.

Mr. Grant was the owner of Silk Screen Process Inc. for more than 50 years. He worked for the Cleveland Public Library, painted and was involved in many other business endeavors. I met Mr. Grant in 1981 in Cleveland when I ran for a Cleveland municipal judgeship. Mr. Grant was the owner of Silk Screen Process, Inc. I requested an estimate of the costs for the signs that I needed. This was my first run for public office and I had very little money. Mr. Grant, observing that I lacked the necessary funds to cover my order, extended credit to me. From that day forward he considered me part of the family and I knew that without the largess of Mr. Grant I would not have won that seat. I recently learned that I was not the only recipient of his kindness.

One day I realized that a friend of mine of many years, Margo Roth was Mr. Grant's daughter and that her sister, Paula had assisted me when I visited the business. I should have known that they were related to Mr. Grant, because they both exhibited the same caring and kindness.

Over the years I have celebrated graduations, weddings, births, homecomings, anniversaries, and successful elections with this wonderful Grant/Roth Family.

Mr. Grant was married to his wife Laura, who predeceased him in death for 61 years. He leaves to celebrate his life, a loving companion Roberta Silber, daughters Paula Rubinstein, Dr. Lee and Margo Roth, Bob, grandchildren, Michael Grant Jaffe, Karen Chaikin, Chip, Jennifer Jaffe Kaufman, Douglas, Julie Namy, Rob and 17 great grandchildren. His siblings, Ruth Buckland and Herman Goldstein and his grandson, Grant Roth, predeceased him.

Madam Speaker, I thank God for making Mr. Grant a part of my life and Mr. Grant for making me a part of his family. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful 96 years of life of Mr. Milton Grant.

HONORING SEAN MCCALMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean McCalmon of Weatherby Lake, Missouri. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN RADIO

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the anniversary of Michigan Radio for 60 years of service to the state of Michigan and the citizens of Southeast Michigan.

Michigan Radio, first known as WUOM, signed on July 5, 1948 with the first broadcast coming from the Angell Hall Observatory on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The station's studios have been in Ann Arbor ever since. As a multi-decade affiliate of National Public Radio, Michigan Radio strives to inform listeners throughout Michigan of the important issues taking place in the world around them. Michigan Radio also broadcasts informative programs like The Environment Report, and its national award-winning news documentaries. There is also no better source for news in Michigan than WUOM.

Michigan Radio's signal reaches the southern half of Michigan. With about 400,000 listeners per week, it has the largest audience of any public radio station in the state. Throughout its tenure, Michigan Radio has provided citizens of Michigan with detailed accounts of world and local news. This informative public radio news service has been essential to the Southeast Michigan community for the past 60 years. I fully believe that Michigan Radio will continue to serve the state of Michigan for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in commending Michigan Radio for 60 years of dedicated service to the people of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAT FERRIS

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a dear friend of Southern Oklahoma who passed away on July 20th, 2008 after a short battle with cancer. Pat Ferris devotedly served Johnston County as the District 1 Commissioner for nearly ten years and was a recognized friend of the entire community.

Pat lived most of his life in his home county, leaving briefly to pursue higher education through earning a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from Oklahoma State University in 1977. Ferris was an incredibly active member in the Johnson County community, but his true passion was working with Oklahoma youth. He was heavily involved with Future Farmers of America and the Johnson County Junior Livestock Association.

While a rancher in Connerville, Oklahoma for most of his life, Pat received the call of public service and ran for a County Commissioner position in 1998, winning in a hotly contested election. He was reelected twice, most recently in 2006. Throughout his tenure in the position of Commissioner, Pat worked on

issues important to his constituency. He was instrumental in preserving the county hospital and in the creation of a new jail.

Pat Ferris is not only dearly remembered by his wife Robin and their five children, but also by countless citizens in Johnston County, Oklahoma who he touched in the 53 years of his life. I stand today to honor and celebrate the life of this great Oklahoman.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3999, The National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.

In my home state of North Carolina there are hundreds of bridges that have been rated structurally deficient, and in my district alone there are over 150 bridges that have been rated structurally deficient. This bill enhances our ability to address this critical need.

H.R. 3999 will improve the safety of our nation's bridges by ensuring that they are properly monitored for repairs, and by ensuring that the federal funding that is set aside for their maintenance and repair goes towards that specific purpose. This bill authorizes an additional \$1 billion in fiscal year 2009, on top of the current \$4.5 billion authorized in the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Program. In addition to this funding, this legislation requires the Federal Highway Administration to conduct annual inspections on bridges that are rated deficient, and inspect all other bridges every two years.

This additional funding, along with the mandated inspections, will go a long way towards insuring that the American public will have confidence in the bridges they traverse, without having to fear the disaster that occurred in Minnesota nearly one year ago.

Madam Chairman our nation's infrastructure is the engine that drives our economy, and the safety of our citizens also depends on the reliability of this infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 3999.

HONORING BYRON PENDLETON III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Byron Pendleton III of Gladstone, Missouri. Byron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Byron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Byron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.